

Mr. Cecil Lewis Jr.
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Subject:
Community Involvement Plan, Haystack Mine, BNSF Railway, Prewitt, New
Mexico

ENVIRONMENT

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Date:
January 2, 2020

This letter is being provided to you by Arcadis U.S., Inc. (Arcadis), on behalf of BNSF Railway Company (BNSF), to document your role and responsibilities as BNSF's community liaison for the Haystack Mine project (project). This letter also documents key safety training and practices that you will be required to follow to work on this project.

Contact:
Ali Harmon

Phone:
612.373.0229

Should you have any questions regarding this information, or while performing your duties, you can reach out to Arcadis and/or BNSF using the contact information below.

Email:
Ali.Harmon@arcadis.com

Arcadis
Project Manager: Ali Harmon
Phone: 612.373.0229
Email: Ali.Harmon@arcadis.com

Our ref:
BNSF Haystack

BNSF
Project Manager: Mike Makerov
Phone: 909.386.4081
Email: Mike.Makerov@BNSF.com

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Site is located approximately 5 miles east of Prewitt, New Mexico, in and immediately outside of the southeast portion of the Navajo Nation, within a rural area of northwestern New Mexico. The Site is atop the Haystack Butte, approximately 500 feet south of the Haystack Mountain and next to County Road 41. The Site consists of three adjacent abandoned uranium mines (AUMs), including Haystack No. 1 AUM (Section 19, T13N, R10W), Bibo Trespass AUM (Section 13, T13N, R11W), and Section 24 AUM (Section 24, T13N, R11W).

Mining-related activities occurred at various times from approximately 1952 to 1981, under various persons and entities, and more than 400,000 tons of uranium ore were extracted. The Site was reclaimed in the early 1990s through a combination of United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), U.S. Department of Energy, and private party coordination. The 1991 and 1992 USEPA Completion Reports concluded that reclamation was successful and reduced the radioactive contamination to background levels, which is protective of human health.

In October 2007, the Navajo Nation and multiple federal agencies initiated a Five-Year Plan regarding uranium contamination on the Navajo Nation properties, and a directive was issued to have federal agencies collaborate with the Navajo Nation to address the issue. Both the USEPA and the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) were selected to lead the effort. In 2014, the USEPA initiated a second Five-Year Plan to build on the previous investigation efforts and to focus on the AUMs posing the most potential risk.

In 2017, an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Removal Action (AOC; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act [CERCLA] Docket No. 09-2017-02 and Docket No. 06-02-17) was executed between the USEPA and BNSF. The AOC requires BNSF to perform a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) at six areas within the Haystack mine.

In July 2017, BNSF submitted a work plan as required by the AOC. The work plan details remedial action for the six TCRA areas, most likely excavation, and the construction of a temporary consolidation waste pile on Section 19. The work plan was approved by the USEPA and NNEPA, who are given regular updates on the progress of work.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Arcadis is committed to health and safety and provides an environment where every worker should feel safe to work. As part of this culture, Arcadis ensures employees are trained for their job, understand the hazards associated with their job, and have the proper equipment to perform their job safely. The following training will be required:

- OSHA 24-hour HAZWOPER training.
- BNSF's contractor safety training.
- Review and sign acknowledgement of reviewing the project's Health and Safety Plan (HASP).

In addition, you will be provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) to wear when you are onsite during the Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) field work, or for periodic site visits for other purposes. PPE will include:

- Steel toed boots (for you to purchase on your own and expense to Arcadis)
- Hard hat
- Reflective vest
- Safety goggles

You will also be required to wear long pants while onsite. While making notifications of upcoming field work, the above PPE is not required. However, long pants and sturdy closed-toe shoes will be required during site visits.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Your role and responsibilities for the project are as follows:

- Generally, be the communication connection between the local residents/Baca Chapter and BNSF/Arcadis.
- Immediately voice any concerns or significant questions from residents to the Arcadis project manager.
- Participate in Chapter meetings on BNSF's behalf (providing updates to Arcadis if we are not in attendance). Document meeting topics pertaining to the Haystack Site, in an email, to Arcadis.
- Conduct community outreach prior to field work, and at specific times during planning for future phases of work. Community outreach will include notifying nearby residents of upcoming work schedules and locations.
- Be present and/or available during field work.
- Support, as needed, with the coordination and implementation of residential relocation efforts.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

In preparation for and in performing these duties, you will potentially have access to confidential information. You are not considered an agent of BNSF or Arcadis, therefore, it is important that confidential information is not released to the public without prior approval from BNSF and/or Arcadis. At this time, the information identified that cannot be shared with the public without approval includes:

- Details regarding [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] relocation, including the relocation offer package, mobile home details, and schedule. This information cannot be shared at any time. Only [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] have the right to share this information.

During upcoming community chapter meetings, BNSF and Arcadis hope to be present and share updates on the TCRA work. However, if BNSF and Arcadis are unable to attend, information will be provided to you (flyer and/or fact sheet) so that you may provide an update to the community on BNSF's behalf.

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS

As the liaison between the community and BNSF/Arcadis, you may receive questions regarding the Haystack work. Below are a couple of the potential questions and associated answers to provide you with an idea of the appropriate responses.

Question: Who is performing the work at the Haystack mine?

Answer: BNSF is responsible for the Haystack mine time critical removal action. BNSF has hired Arcadis as their consultant and Iina Ba as the Navajo construction contractor to perform the work.

Question: When will removal action work happen?

Answer: BNSF is currently working on getting the appropriate approvals for the work from the USEPA and NNEPA. Once all details of the work are approved, the work will commence, we are anticipating during the spring of 2020.

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January 2, 2020

Question: Is the area dangerous to us?

Answer: The site was successfully reclaimed in the 1990s and a supplemental investigation performed by USEPA in 2014 showed that only the six TCRA areas required additional action at this time; however, these areas do not pose an immediate danger to human health or the environment.

Question: I'm concerned about my health and affect the area will have on me. Who should I contact for more information?

Answer: You can contact Vivian Craig at the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency at 928.871.6859 or Priscilla Tom at the United States Environmental Protection Agency at 415.972.3377.

If you have any questions regarding what can be shared, you can always reach out to me at 612.373.0229 or via email at ali.harmon@arcadis.com. If the community member would like information directly, they may contact Mike Makerov at 909.386.4081.

Sincerely,

Arcadis U.S., Inc.



Ali Harmon
Project Manager

Copies:

Mike Makerov, BNSF
Drew Werth, Arcadis
Mike Winter, Arcadis

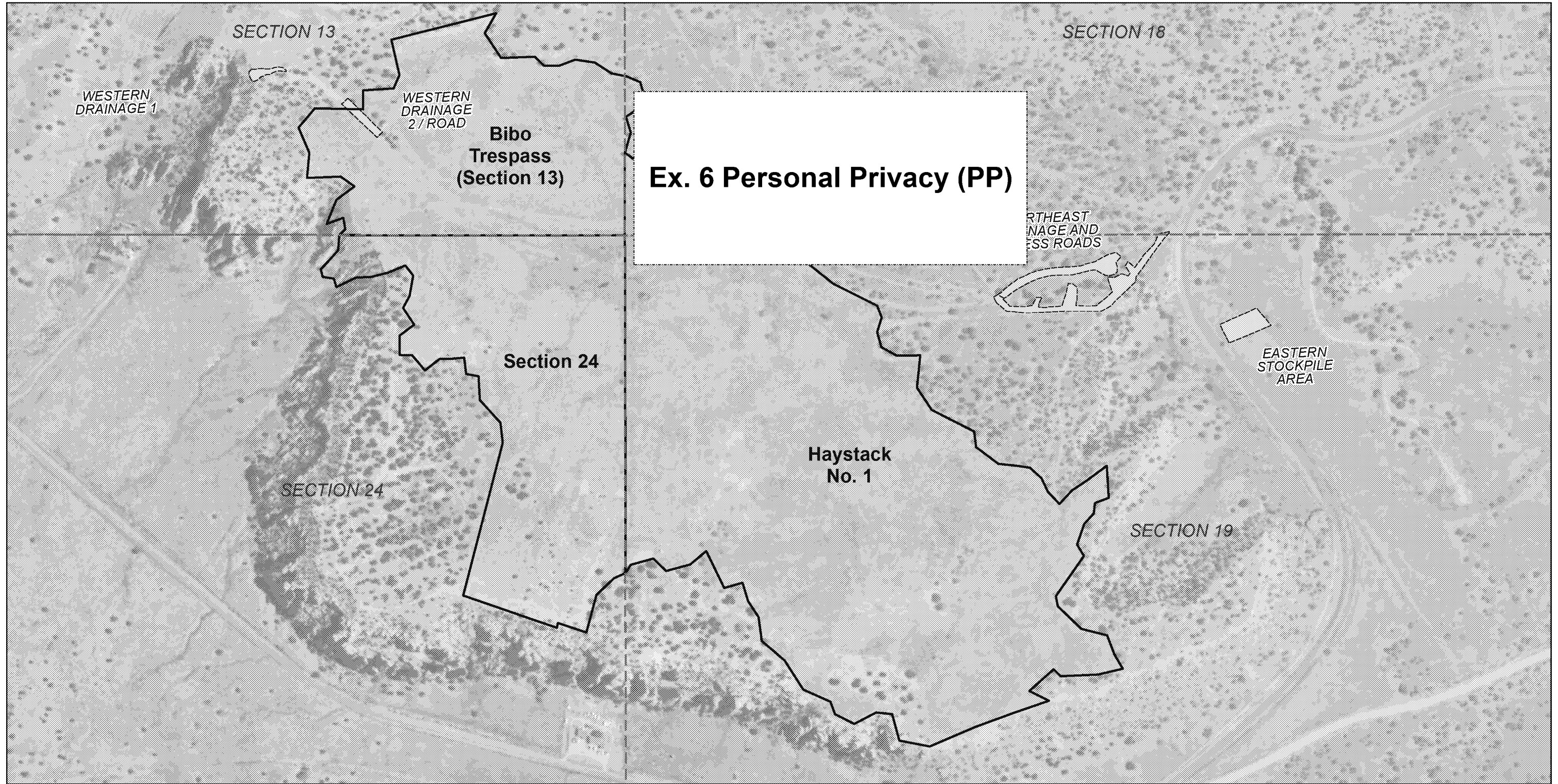
Enclosures:

Attachments

Figure 1: Time Critical Removal Action Areas

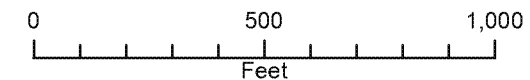
Acknowledgement Page

User: kperera Location: On-Site Citrix
Path: Z:\GIS\Projects\ENV\BNSF\BNSF_HAYSTACKMINE\MMXD\RemovalWorkPlan\Figures\TimeCriticalRemovalActionAreas_TCRA_Only.mxd



Legend

- Abandoned Uranium Mine (AUM) Boundaries
- Time Critical Removal Action Area (per AOC)
- PLSS Section and Identification Number



Base Image Source: ESRI World Imagery 2016

BNSF
HAYSTACK MINE, NEW MEXICO

**TIME CRITICAL REMOVAL
ACTION AREAS**



FIGURE
1

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE

I have read the Community Involvement Plan and I understand my role, responsibilities, and the restrictions with providing confidential information to the community.

Mr. Cecil Lewis Jr.
Community Liaison

Date

Agreement regarding community liaison's roles, responsibilities, and restrictions with providing confidential information to the community.

Ms. Ali Harmon
Arcadis Project Manager

Date

Mr. Mike Makerov
BNSF Project Manager

Date